

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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HOUSE BILL 385

Short Title: Youth Accountability Task Force. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Stevens (Primary Sponsor).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Judiciary Subcommittee C, if favorable, Appropriations.

March 21, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY PLANNING TASK FORCE
IN THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A PILOT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Task Force established. – There is established the Youth
Accountability Planning Task Force within the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department
of Public Safety.

SECTION 2. Membership. – The Task Force shall consist of 21 members as
follows, with the members designated in subdivisions (1) through (8) of this section serving ex
officio:

- (1) The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety.
- (2) The Chief Deputy Secretary of the Division of Juvenile Justice of the
Department of Public Safety.
- (3) The Chief Deputy Secretary of the Division of Adult Correction of the
Department of Public Safety.
- (4) The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- (5) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- (6) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- (7) The Secretary of the Department of Administration, or a designee having
knowledge of programs and services for youth and young adults.
- (8) The Juvenile Defender in the Office of Indigent Defense.
- (9) One representative from the Governor's Crime Commission appointed by the
Governor.
- (10) One representative from the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory
Commission appointed by the Governor.
- (11) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
the House of Representatives.
- (12) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
Senate.
- (13) Two chief court counselors appointed by the Governor, one to be from a
rural county and one from an urban county.
- (14) One present or former chief district court judge or superior court judge
appointed by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.



1 (15) One police chief appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

2 (16) One district attorney appointed by the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives.

4 Appointments to the Task Force shall be made no later than October 1, 2013. A
5 vacancy in the Task Force, or a vacancy as chair of the Task Force, resulting from the
6 resignation of a member or otherwise, shall be filled in the same manner in which the original
7 appointment was made.

8 **SECTION 3.** Chair; meetings. – The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate one member to serve as cochair
10 of the Task Force. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

11 **SECTION 4.** The Office of the Governor shall provide staff to the Task Force at
12 the request of the Task Force.

13 **SECTION 5.** Cooperation by government agencies. – The Task Force may call
14 upon any department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political subdivision
15 thereof for facilities, data, or other assistance.

16 **SECTION 6.** Duties of Task Force. – The Task Force shall study:

17 (1) The Educational Services Section of the Division of Juvenile Justice to
18 determine the best structure for delivering these mandatory services to a
19 delinquent population. The study shall identify advantages and risks of
20 changing the delivery, as well as make recommendations to deal with any
21 identified risks.

22 (2) Whether the educational offerings available in youth development centers
23 and detention centers provide adequate vocational training for the
24 population.

25 (3) The adequacy of transitional housing for delinquent juveniles exiting youth
26 development centers.

27 (4) The feasibility of providing transitional housing for juveniles exiting youth
28 development centers with children transitioning from foster care to
29 independent housing.

30 (5) Whether the Tarheel Challenge program operated by the North Carolina
31 National Guard should be expanded so that the program can be an alternative
32 for all juvenile dispositional levels.

33 (6) The feasibility of providing tuition waivers in the Community College
34 System for juveniles committed to youth development centers and in
35 post-release supervision status.

36 (7) The adequacy of dispositional options available to Juvenile Court for status
37 offenders.

38 (8) Any other issue deemed by the Task Force necessary to complete its work.

39 **SECTION 7.** Consultation. – The Task Force shall consult with appropriate State
40 departments, agencies, and board representatives on issues related to juvenile justice
41 administration.

42 **SECTION 8.** Report. – The Task Force shall submit a final report to the 2013
43 General Assembly when it reconvenes in 2014. The Task Force shall terminate upon filing its
44 final report.

45 **SECTION 9.** Funding. – The Task Force may apply for, receive, and accept grants
46 of non-State funds or other contributions as appropriate to assist in the performance of its
47 duties. The Division of Juvenile Justice may also use funds appropriated to it to carry out the
48 study and devise the implementation plan.

49 **SECTION 10.** Staffing, services, and supplies. – The Division of Juvenile Justice
50 shall provide professional and clerical staff and other services and supplies, including meeting
51 space, as needed for the Task Force to carry out its duties in an effective manner.

1 **SECTION 11.** There is appropriated to the Division of Juvenile Justice of the
2 Department of Public Safety the sum of six hundred fifty thousand nonrecurring dollars
3 (\$650,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and six hundred fifty thousand nonrecurring dollars
4 (\$650,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to implement a pilot program for transitional housing
5 for juveniles exiting youth development centers. The Division shall collaborate in this effort
6 with the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to
7 determine if populations served by the respective divisions can be served adequately through a
8 single transitional housing model. The Division may contract with appropriate service
9 providers to implement this pilot program as a public-private partnership.

10 **SECTION 12.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.